

knew anything, whereas in 1932, everybody knows, or thinks he knows, all about Trade Unions and Trade Unionism Subsequent researches, the flood of recent knowledge of and interest in the topic, have not dispossessed their analysis or made their description out of date They made their own, when these books came out, a certain section, and that a very important one, of history, and it is still primarily theirs On these two books alone—to say nothing of the great series that was to follow them—they take their place among the creative descnbers, those who, literally, so see an object that for the first time it comes into the effective view and effective possession of others

The History of Trade Unionism was issued in 1894
Industrial

Democracy followed in 1897 The two are, in effect, one book From many points of view the most important book of its kind produced in the second half of the nineteenth century, it is also, in the opinion of many, their master-piece Here, the method they ever afterwards followed themselves, and have taught to a host of subsequent students all over the world, is first and most effectively exemplified in action A vast mass of material is organised on an intellectual design whose authority is due, in no small part, to the fact that the detailed research behind it is, at once, matter of first-hand observation by the authors, and has been tried, tested and sifted by every conceivable test Here is the scientific method in application to the observation and description of

social facts,
of which Beatrice Potter had dreamed A
gentle reminder
to the critic that he had better know before
judging comes,
in its place, like a hammer stroke, driving in
the rivet
of acceptance of judgments based on immense
accumu-
lation of ordered facts, handled here with the
ease of
accomplished and familiar mastery All this,
the reader
of the nineteen-thirties can appreciate and
does appreciate,
as he reads It is harder for him to do
justice to the